number of conventional fairs of cultural-religious significance every year which have a vast potential of attracting domestic and foreign tourists;

(b) if so, whether economic assistance is being extended to State Government for conservations of these fairs and to provide more facilities therefor; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations for organising one "event" and two "fairs & festivals" every year for promotion of tourism which are identified in consultation with the State concerned. The funds are released subject to inter-se priority and availability of funds under the respective head.

Pending Proposals from Madhya Pradesh

†2324. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals forwarded by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh have been pending with the Central Government for clearance since long;

(b) if so, the details thereof, proposal-wise; and

(c) by when these proposal would be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) Development and promotion of tourist places/spots is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. However, Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance for projects prioritized every year in consultation with them. On the receipt of proposals that are complete in all respects, funds are provided subject to availability under the respective head.

During the 10th Five Year Plan (from 2002-03 to 2004-05) the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned projects worth Rs. 2928.27 lakhs for Madhya Pradesh.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.